

## **RESPONSIBILITY- LIABILITY**

Participants will be required to give written consent allowing the production and use of Verbal or Written Statements, Photographs, Digital Images, and/or Video or Audio Recordings by VA for competition and publicity purposes.

## **JUDGING**

A panel of judges will use the criteria indicated within each division referenced in the 2021 competition handbook.

## **SOCIAL**

Check out our website at:  
[www.creativeartsfestival.va.gov](http://www.creativeartsfestival.va.gov)

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Local first place entries in each category will have the opportunity to compete in the 2021 National Veterans Creative Arts Competition.

Entries in the Creative Writing division at the national level must be typed and submitted via Word document.

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Presented by



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs



American Legion  
Auxiliary

**VA STAFF CONTACT:**  
**203-932-5711**  
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## **National Veterans Creative Arts Program**



**2021**  
**Creative Writing**  
**Division**



The VA Art Competition provides Veterans with an opportunity to be recognized for their creative accomplishments.

**ENTRY DEADLINE: All**  
**submissions due June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**by email at**  
**stephanie.o'keefe@va.gov**

## **RULES**

- To qualify for entry, Veterans must be enrolled in the VA Healthcare System **BEFORE** entering the local competition.
- Entries must have been written or recorded after April 1, 2020.
- VA facility staff and competition judges may move an entry to another category if necessary.
- A Veteran may enter up to three categories, but **ONLY** one entry per category.

### **Special Recognition**

This category is in each division and recognizes individuals who exhibit creative expression while possessing significant physical or psychological limitations. The intent of this category is to reinforce the concept of the arts as therapy, where an individual uses artistic expression to facilitate successful outcomes.

A statement must be included with the entry, not to exceed 225 words, can be written by the Veteran or the Veteran's VA staff contact person, nurse, physician or practitioner.

## **Creative Writing Division Categories**

1. **Poetry Rhyming** - A verse composition, **no longer than 48 lines** in length. Poetry humorous entries should be submitted into the Humor category.
2. **Poetry Non-Rhyming** - A composition, **no longer than 48 lines** in length. Poetry humorous entries should be submitted into the Humor category.
3. **Personal Essay** - A non-fiction composition based on something the writer has experienced or felt. Entries in this category **must not exceed 850 words**.
4. **Humor** - All types of works which employ humor as the primary component should be submitted in this category. **Poetry entries should be no longer than 48 lines and prose entries must not exceed 850 words**.
5. **Short, Short Story** - A short story, **no longer than 1,000 words**. The story must have a beginning, middle, and an end.
6. **Short Script** - Part of a short script for one or more characters, documenting the movement, actions, expression, and dialogue of the characters. Entries in this category **must not exceed 850 words**.
7. **Military Experience Poetry** – Poetry entries related to military experience should be submitted in this category. Entries must be **no longer than 48 lines in length**.
8. **Military Experience (not poetry)** – Entries (not poetry) related to military experience should be submitted in this category. **Entries in this category must not exceed 850 words**.
9. **Special Recognition** - Individual or group. Entries by Veterans who exhibit creative expression through use of creative writing while possessing significant physical or psychological limitations. The intent of this category is to reinforce the concept of the arts as therapy, where individuals use artistic expression to facilitate successful treatment outcomes. **Poetry entries should be no longer than 48 lines and prose entries must not exceed 850 words**.